

Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Clauses.

1. Definition of "principal Act" and of "Registration Acts."
2. Extent.
3. Short title.
4. Grounds of objection to be stated in notice.
5. Evidence required only so far as ground stated.
6. Each ground of objection to be treated as a separate objection.
7. Costs to be awarded not to exceed 5*l*.
8. Proceedings on objections.
9. Poor rate collectors to enter objections on list.
10. Sixty-seventh section of "principal Act" to apply to poor rate collectors.
11. Poor rate collectors to attend revision courts and subscribe oath.
12. Remuneration of poor rate collectors.
13. Power to enforce attendance of witnesses.
14. Medical relief not to disqualify.
15. Revision courts to be held at polling stations unless Lord Lieutenant otherwise directs.
16. Register to contain post towns.
17. Precepts, &c. to be made conformable.
18. Commencement of Act.

SCHEDULE A.—Form of notice of objection.

SCHEDULE B.—Oath to be taken by certain persons.

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B I L L

TO

Amend the Law relating to the Registration of Voters in Ireland. A.D. 1883.

WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate the registration of persons entitled to the franchise, and to assimilate the law relating to the registration of parliamentary voters in England and in Ireland, and it is expedient to provide the same remedies against making frivolous objections to persons acquiring the franchise in counties as has already been provided in England :

And whereas other amendments are required in the laws relating to the registration of parliamentary voters in Ireland :

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows ; (that is to say,)

Preliminary.

1. "Principal Act" shall mean the Act passed in the session of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, as amended by the "Registration Acts." "Registration Acts" in this Act shall mean the Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, and all other Acts or parts of Acts relating to the registration or qualification of persons entitled to vote at the election of members to serve in Parliament for Ireland as amended by this Act.

Definition of "principal Act" and of "Registration Acts."

2. This Act shall apply to Ireland only, but shall not extend to the borough of the University of Dublin.

Extent of Act.

3. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Registration of Voters Amendment (Ireland) Act, 1883.

Short title.

Prevention of frivolous Objections.

4. A notice of objection given under section twenty-six of the "principal Act" to any person upon any list of voters not being the [Bill 24.]

Notices of objection shall state

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A.D. 1883.

grounds of
objection.
See
28 & 29 Vict.
c. 36. s. 6.

Person ob-
jected to
only required
to give evi-
dence in
support of
his right so
far as ground
of objection
stated.
28 & 29 Vict.
c. 36. s. 7.

Each ground
of objection
to be treated
as a separate
objection,
and costs
awarded.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69. s. 62.
28 & 29 Vict.
c. 36. s. 8.

Costs to be
awarded not
to exceed 5*l*.
28 & 29 Vict.
c. 36. s. 14.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69. s. 62.

Proceedings
on objection
made to
voters on
list other
than list of
claimants.

13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69. s. 55.

list of claimants shall not be valid unless the ground or grounds of objection be specifically stated therein; and this provision shall be deemed to be sufficiently satisfied by naming the column or columns of the register on which the objector grounds his objection, and any objection grounded upon any one of the said columns shall be deemed a separate ground of objection, and such notice may be according to the form in the schedule to this Act annexed, or to the like effect, in substitution for the form numbered (12) in Schedule (A.) to the principal Act.

5. No person objected to by a notice under the said section of the principal Act, as amended by this section, shall be required to give evidence before the county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister in support of his right to be registered otherwise than as such right is called in question in the ground or grounds of objection specified in the notice.

6. Every separate ground of objection in any notice given in accordance with this Act shall be treated by the county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister as a separate objection; and for every such ground of objection which, in the opinion of the county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister, has been groundlessly or frivolously or vexatiously stated, he shall, on the application of the person objected to, or anyone on his behalf, and upon the production of the notice of objection, award costs against the objector to the amount of at least *two shillings and sixpence*, and this though the name of the person objected to be expunged upon some other ground of objection stated in the same notice of objection.

7. The sum ordered to be paid by way of costs shall not upon any one vote exceed the sum of "*five pounds*," and the sixty-second section of the principal Act shall be read as if the words "*five pounds*" had been substituted therein for the words "*twenty shillings*."

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the "principal Act" contained, where any person whose name is on any list of voters for a county, city, town, or borough, (not being a list of claimants,) is duly objected to by some person other than the clerk of the peace, the clerk of the union, the poor rate collectors, or the town clerk, county court judge, the chairman or revising barrister, whether the person objected to does or does not appear before him, shall, before requiring it to be proved that the person so objected to is entitled to have his name inserted in the list of voters for such county, city, town, or borough, or expunging such name, require

prima facie proof to be given to his satisfaction of some ground of objection against such person, and, for the purpose of determining whether such prima facie proof is satisfactory, shall examine the collectors of poor rates, clerk of the union, or any other person who may be present, touching the truth of the alleged ground of objection, and if such prima facie proof is not so given to his satisfaction, he shall retain the name of the person objected to in the list of voters.

A.D. 1843.

Miscellaneous.

- 10 9. The clerk of each poor law union wholly or in part within the limits of any county in Ireland, after he shall have made out the supplemental list in the twentieth section of the "principal Act" mentioned and directed to be made out, but before transmitting the same to the clerk of the peace of the county as in said section is mentioned, shall deliver such supplemental list to the respective collector or collectors of poor rate for such respective barony or division of a barony; and such collector or collectors shall upon such list enter objections before the names of persons in such supplemental list contained, and not entitled to be on the register next to be made, in like manner in all respects and in the like cases as in the nineteenth section of the principal Act is directed and required with regard to the copy of register of such barony or division of a barony, and such respective poor rate collector or collectors shall return such lists to the clerk of the union in sufficient time to enable such clerk of the union to deal with said list, as is directed by the twentieth section of the said principal Act.

Poor rate collectors to enter objections on list.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69. s. 20.

10. The provisions of the sixty-seventh section of the "principal Act" shall apply to all poor rate collectors as fully as the same apply to any clerk of the peace or town clerk. Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed or construed to relieve any clerk of the peace, clerk of the union, or other person from any obligation or duty imposed on him by any of the Registration Acts now in force.

Certain provisions of the 13 & 14 Vict. c. 67. to apply to poor rate collectors.

11. In each court of revision holden in or for any such county, city, town, or borough, every collector of poor rate or other officer or person having the custody of any such rate or rate-books (whose duty it is under any of the Registration Acts to assist in the preparation, revision, or correction of the lists of voters) shall attend before the county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister, and shall answer upon oath all such questions as such county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister may put to him, and shall also at the commencement of each revision make and

Poor rate collectors to attend revision courts and subscribe oath.

A.D. 1883.

Power to fine persons guilty of breach of duty a sum not exceeding 5*l*.

Remuneration to poor rate collectors.

Power to enforce attendance of witnesses summoned.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69, s. 56.

Persons refusing to give evidence liable to imprisonment.

Medical relief not to disqualify.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 69, s. 111.

Revision courts to be held at poll stations.

subscribe the oath contained in Schedule B. hereto; and it shall be lawful for the county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister, from time to time as there shall be occasion, to fine any such collector of poor rate or other officer who shall be guilty of any breach of duty in execution of this Act any sum not exceeding *five pounds*.

12. The guardians of the poor of each union of every county, city, town, or borough may, by order, make such annual allowance out of the rates to the poor rate collectors, as compensation for the duty by this Act imposed upon them, as the said guardians shall think proper; but no such order shall be acted on, nor any payment made thereunder, until the same shall be approved of by the Local Government Board.

13. Any person who shall refuse or neglect, when duly required by summons under the hand of any county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister, to attend before such county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister at any court to be holden under the "principal Act," or under any other Act empowering a county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister to hold courts for the revision of lists of parliamentary voters, for the purpose of being examined as a witness, shall, upon proof before him of the service of such summons, be liable to pay by way of fine for every such offence a sum of money not exceeding *five pounds* nor less than *twenty shillings*, to be imposed by and at the discretion of the said county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister holding any such court as aforesaid, and to be recovered in the same manner as the other fines imposed by said Act are now by law recoverable.

Any person who shall have been duly summoned and shall refuse to give evidence before the chairman or revising barrister at any court to be holden under the principal Act, or under any other Act empowering a chairman or revising barrister to hold courts for the revision of lists of parliamentary voters, shall be liable to imprisonment for contempt of court for a period not exceeding *six weeks*, at the discretion of the chairman or revising barrister.

14. Section one hundred and eleven of the "principal Act" shall not apply to persons who shall receive medical but no other relief under the Acts for the more effectual relief of the poor in Ireland.

15. The county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister of every county or riding shall hold open courts for the revision of the lists of voters at each of the places which may be from time to time appointed as polling places for such county or riding:

Provided always, that the Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland may, if he or they shall consider it unnecessary to have such courts held in any of the polling places so appointed, or if he or they shall consider any of such places inconvenient for the purpose of holding such revision courts, appoint such other places within the said county or riding as he or they shall think more convenient and suitable for the revision of voters for such county or riding.

A.D. 1883.

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16. *From and after the date of the passing of this Act* the register for each county in Ireland, except the registers now in force, and every list of voters or list of claimants for such county, shall contain the post town of the place of abode of every person whose name shall be upon such register, list of voters, or list of claimants for such county.

Register list of voters, &c. for counties to contain post town of places of abode of persons on such register and lists.

17. All precepts, instruments, proceedings, and notices relating to the registration of voters shall be framed and expressed in such manner and form as may be necessary for the carrying of the provisions of this Act into effect.

Precepts, &c. to be made conformable to this Act.

18. This Act shall commence and come into operation on the first day of July one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

Commencement of Act.

A.D. 1883.

SCHEDULES.

SCHEDULE A.

NOTICE of OBJECTION to be given to PARTIES objected to by any
PERSON other than the CLERK of the PEACE or CLERK of the
UNION.

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Barony of

To Mr.

, of

Take notice that I object to your name [*in the notice to the
tenant, instead of the words "your name," insert the name of the
person objected to*] being retained on the list for this barony of 10
voters for the county of , and I ground my objection
on the column of the register headed—

"Christian name and surname of each person on the register;"

Or on the column headed—

"Place of abode;"

15

Or on the column headed—

"Nature of qualification;"

Or on the column headed—

"Amount of qualification or rating;"

Or on the column headed—

20

"Townland or other denomination, street, lane, or other like
place in this polling district, &c."

Dated this

day of

one

thousand eight hundred and

Signed A.B., of [*place of abode*], being now registered 25
[*or*] on the register of voters or list of voters [*as the
case may be*] for the county of

SCHEDULE B.

A.D. 1893.

OATH to be taken by CLERK of the PEACE, TOWN CLERK, POOR RATE COLLECTOR, at the commencement of the sitting of REVISION COURT.

- 5 I make oath and say that I have honestly and faithfully and to the best of my ability discharged all the duties imposed upon me by law relating to the preparation, revision, and correction of the lists of voters which are to be revised at the present court of revision.

- 10 (Signed)

Sworn this day of before me

[*The county court judge, chairman, or revising barrister.*]